

COUNCILWOMAN OVERSON DEFEATS INCUMBENT TO BECOME TAYLORSVILLE CITY'S SIXTH MAYOR

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

In a fall election season that generated a high number of female candidates nationwide, Taylorsville will see its second woman at the helm — in just over 20 years of existence — after City Councilwoman Kristie Overson upended incumbent Larry Johnson in the Nov. 7 vote.

A city council seat was also reclaimed by a female, as elementary school teacher and mother of four Meredith Harker defeated Ron Allred for the District 4 post. She replaces two-term incumbent Dama Barbour, who chose not to run again.

The election's only incumbent winner was District 5 City Councilman Dan Armstrong who won a second term over 19-year-old University of Utah student John Fuller.

Every race was won by at least 15 points, with Overson earning 57 percent of the vote, Harker 62 percent and Armstrong 67 percent. Taylorsville voter turnout ranged from 29 to 32 percent, in the city's first-ever vote-by-mail.

"I'm really excited and glad I knocked on all those doors," Overson said. "I got to hear so many concerns from our residents. Many of them also said they just weren't aware of things that are happening. Improving communication will be one of my top priorities as mayor."

Mayor Johnson leaves after one term in office.

"(I'm) just wishing the new mayor success and hope that she can keep the city on the good track it's going," Johnson said in a text message. "(I'm) pleased with the direction the city is going in growth and taking the burden off the people (with) no tax increase in my time as mayor. Taylorsville is better off than it was four years ago. Taylorsville is a great place to raise a family."

Mayor-elect Overson celebrated her win on election night by renting the Taylorsville City Council chambers to host a reception for volunteers and supporters. Among those on hand was Councilwoman-elect Meredith Harker.

"I'm excited, overwhelmed, relieved and surprised the vote wasn't closer," Harker said. "I think my different perspective appealed to the voters. I'm in the trenches right now, with kids in school and raising a young family."

Harker credits social media as a big key to her victory.

"I used Facebook, Instagram and created



The new Taylorsville mayor and city council member show off the signs that helped get them elected. (Carl Fauver)

my own website to help keep the lines of communication open," she added. "I want to keep communication flowing and also concentrate on developing a strategic transportation plan for Taylorsville."

Harker will replace eight-year Councilwoman Dama Barbour in January.

"I couldn't be happier with Kristie and Meredith winning," Barbour said. "They will bring strong leadership and communication to the council. When I decided two terms was enough for me, I was concerned a woman's perspective stay on the council. I also wanted someone bold and a bit younger. I supported Meredith from the day I met her."

That meeting came about when another female officeholder took action. Taylorsville High School graduate and current resident Aimee Winder Newton represents the city — as well as parts of West Jordan, Murray and other cities — on the Salt Lake County Council.

"When I learned council member Barbour was retiring, I took Meredith to lunch and asked her if she had ever considered running," Winder Newton said. "She is so energetic and genuinely cares. We need a young mother's perspective (on the Taylorsville City Council). She fills a demographic we don't have now. I'm happy for

her and for Kristie (Overson). I recruited her into government years ago too."

Also at the mayor-elect's reception celebrating both wins was Taylorsville City Council Chairman Brad Christopherson, who had publicly endorsed each candidate.

"I knew Meredith because my daughter

was in her third-grade class (until June)," Christopherson said. "She began learning about city government — and attending council meetings — a year ago. I think very highly of her."

As for Mayor-elect Overson, the council chair added, "I have worked with Kristie for a long time. Her diligence and work ethic are incredible. When she goes to meetings, she shares everything she learned with the rest of us. I like her ideas and her communication skills."

The lone incumbent to survive the night — District 5 Councilman Armstrong — said he was both pleased and disappointed with the results.

"All I can do is wipe the sweat off and be happy about my own win," he said. "I am disappointed in the mayor's race. Mayor Johnson put his heart and soul into the job. It's rare to find a people person who also has great business savvy. But I do like Kristie, and if she hadn't been facing Larry, I would have voted for her. I know she will continue to be great to work with."

Kristie Overson will be the second female mayor of Taylorsville and sixth overall:

Lavelle Prince — 1996–1997
Janice Auger (Rasmussen) — 1998–2005
Russ Wall — 2006–2012
Jerry Rechtenbach — 2013
Larry Johnson — 2014–2017
Kristie Overson — 2018 ✦



Taylorsville Mayor-elect Kristie Overson addresses her election night victory party. (Carl Fauver)

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Committee launches new community event

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

Maybe the name is part of the reason Taylorsville City's LARP Committee constantly struggles for membership. After all, what's LARP?

First off, don't Google it—unless you want to fall down a rabbit hole, into a world of dragon costumes, gladiators, swords and people wearing strange hobbit ears.

Unlike the place computer search engines take you, this isn't "Live Action Role Playing."

"Let me see, I have it written out somewhere, hold on, I don't want to give it to you wrong." That's what Committee Chairwoman Joan Thalmann says when you ask what LARP stands for.

But even if the acronym for the city's Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee is a bit confusing, Thalmann said what they do is all about fun — just the kind of committee she was looking for.

"I first became active on the committee about 11½ years ago, when Russ Wall was mayor," Thalmann said. "When I told him I wanted to become more involved in the city, he suggested I join the Ordinance Review Committee. But I told him that sounded too much like work, and I wanted to do something fun. The next thing I knew, I was on the LARP Committee."

Thalmann spent more than 30 years working for the State Department of Environmental Quality Clean Air Division and said she's had her fill of reviewing ordinances.

"This committee is great; we give out beautification awards, holiday decorating honors, and this year we launched our biggest event yet," she said.

That would be the first-ever Family Fall Festival, which drew an estimated 3,000 people, despite being held on an unseasonably cold, mid-October Saturday.

"Those who braved the chill seemed to have a great time," Thalmann said. "We had six bounce houses for the kids and provided them with pumpkins and paint for a decorating contest. The National Guard brought their climbing wall; there was a chalk art contest and lots of food trucks. We're already talking about doing it again next year, if the city will budget for it again."

Since its inception years

Outstanding holiday outdoor decorations will be honored again this season by Taylorsville City.

ago, the LARP Committee has functioned on just a \$500 per year budget. But when the decision was made to launch the Family Fall Festival, city officials agreed to provide the committee with a \$15,000 budget to do it.

"As far as I know, that's the first time our committee every received any additional funding for an event," Thalmann said. "And we came in way under budget, spending about \$10,400."

One of Thalmann's few active LARP Committee members who assisted with the festival was Judy Bunkall, who's been with the group about half a year.

"I had no idea we were going to do the festival when I joined; what a wonderful activity," Bunkall said. "It was so much fun to help plan the festival, and I learned what great city employees we have. They were willing to help with anything. We could certainly use more committee members, and I think anyone who joins will learn just how enriching it is."

The LARP Committee representative on the city council, Councilman Dan Armstrong, couldn't agree more.

"The Family Fall Festival was a great event that we want to repeat, but that's just one thing the committee does,"

Armstrong said. "One of their priorities is to highlight parks. That's why they held (the festival) at Taylorsville Park (4700 South Redwood Road). The committee also coordinates our walking trail system throughout the city, and they present beautification and holiday decorating awards to residents. Joan (Thalmann) is a great gal — what a fireball. Anyone who joins the committee will love working with her."

Already this year the LARP Committee has presented summer yard beautification awards to some hardworking Taylorsville residents. Last month the committee also honored the city's best Halloween decorated homes. All that's left now is to award the top holiday outdoor decor.

"Taylorsville residents have until Jan. 2, 2018, to submit a photo or video of their own decorated yard or a neighbor's," Thalmann said. "We always get great entries. It's amazing how much work some people put into decorating their yards."

To enter the contest, or to learn more about joining the Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee, send an email to LARP@taylorsvilleut.gov.

Just don't Google LARP—unless your dragon costume has been properly dry cleaned. ✦

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New Taylorsville Senior Center addition has woodwork and ceramic artists thrilled

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

The Taylorsville Senior Center (4743 South 1600 West) celebrated its 15th anniversary this fall, and already the popular site has been expanded twice. The center opened its doors on Sept. 26, 2002, and grew by 3,120 square feet a dozen years later.

This time, the expansion is a more modest 760 square feet. But those seniors who participate in the center’s ceramic and woodworking art programs say it will be “just right.”

Called the “burn room,” the new addition has its own separate ventilation, allowing smoke created by wood-burning projects — and the odor emitted from the center’s ceramics kiln — to leave the center without permeating the rest of the building, as it had in the past.

Deborah Kay and her fellow ceramic artists couldn’t be happier.

“It’s been a pain to have our projects fired for the past couple of years,” Kay said. “For a while, we were taking our pieces elsewhere to fire them. But it will be much nicer to have our own kiln up and running again.”

Another ceramic artist, June Pons, can remember the kiln operating at the center for many years. But then about three years ago the rules changed.

“I know the kiln and the wood burning used to put an odor into the rest of the center,” Pons said. “I don’t know if the fire department ordered us to stop or what happened. But suddenly, we were told we couldn’t use the kiln anymore. So, I quit ceramic work all together and became a hooker.”

After a pause — just long enough for your jaw to hit the ground — June smiles and adds, “That’s what those of us who crochet call ourselves — hookers.”

Pons said she will be glad to resume her ceramic work in the new room, though it will likely mean one less hooker at the center.

“Construction on the burn room began in August, and it should



Taylorsville Senior Center ceramics patron June Pons shows off some of her handicrafts. (Carl Fauver)

be up and running before the end of the year,” Taylorsville Senior Center Manager Pauline McBride said. “It’s not nearly as big as the 2014 expansion, but it’s an important one so we can resume a couple of our popular activities.”

Three years ago, Taylorsville City budgeted \$550,000 to complete that larger 3,120-square-foot expansion, to create a large multipurpose area and an adjacent, two-table billiards room.

The new burn room is just a quarter that size, with a budget of \$148,000. Judd Construction is building the 20-foot-by-38-foot room at the southeast corner of the senior center.

“It’ll be plenty big for what we want to do,” said Don Pannier. “And thank goodness there won’t be any puzzles in there.”

A woodworker, Pannier said his hobby stirs up a lot of dust that used to cause problems for puzzle builders who used to share their previous hobby room.

“We have a lot of people who do a lot of different activities here,” McBride added. “We’re trying to create as much space as possible for everyone to do what they like.”

The Taylorsville Senior Center is one of 19 centers throughout the valley. Salt Lake County operates 16 of them.

“Each county-operated center only has three or four full-time employees,” McBride said. “We also have a handful of part-time instructors and kitchen staff. But all of the centers rely heavily on volunteers.”

The Taylorsville center alone has about 100 volunteers donating about 700 hours per month.

Shannon Ralphs is one of them, who’s been donating time to the Taylorsville Senior Center for eight years and now works the front desk.

“I can come in overwhelmed with my own problems, and by the time I walk out, my feet don’t even touch the ground,” Ralphs said. “Your cup runneth over when you volunteer here. I love interacting with the seniors and staff.”

The Taylorsville Senior Center opens at 8 a.m., Monday through Friday, closing at 5 p.m. three days a week, but remaining open until 8 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Transportation to and from the center is available — to any Taylorsville resident, over age 60 — for a \$1 donation.

The center also serves lunch to about 60 people each weekday, for a suggested \$3 donation.

And as June Pons can attest, “hookers” are welcome.

For more information about the Taylorsville Senior Center, or to volunteer, call 385-468-3200. ✦

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Taylorsville Lutheran Church and School hosts successful ‘Trunk or Treat’ night, drawing thousands

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

The people in charge couldn’t really agree how many parents and kids turned out — somewhere between 1,000 and 2,000.

They can’t even agree on whether this was the 10th annual Taylorsville Trunk or Treat event or the eighth, as one event official confessed.

But everyone associated with the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School does agree, this pre-Halloween event is getting bigger and better every year, and is their most effective annual community outreach activity.

“Trunk or treat isn’t any kind of a fundraiser,” said the church’s school Vice Principal Jeff Sell. “This is simply one way we try to give back to our neighbors and provide the kids with a fun and safe activity.”

On the cool but clear final Friday night of October, witches, goblins and even a seven-foot dinosaur began lining up more than a half hour before the Trunk or Treat event began in the church parking lot, at 1441 Tamarack Road (about 4650 South).

Nearby streets were filled with parked cars in every direction. The cost of admission was a canned food item for the Taylorsville Food Pantry. And the first person people met after entering the parking lot came all the way from Vernal.

“The church hired us to take souvenir pictures of each group,” said Russell Brinkerhoff, owner of The Selfie Stand. Much like a Disneyland ride, he and his wife Breanne posed costumed visitors in front of a “green screen” and gave each group a keepsake photo.

“I didn’t mind driving all the way out from Vernal,” Russell said. “I’m a bow hunter, and that’s what I’ll be doing out this way tomorrow.”

Also mingling in the crowd was Paula Rigby, who’s been a member of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church since the moment it was created.

“My parents started the church, in our Murray basement, in 1969,” Rigby said. “They soon began to rent church space in South



Taylorsville Mayor Larry Johnson (in the white mask) talks with an oversized constituent. (Carl Fauver/City Journals)

Salt Lake, before moving to this location in 1976.”

The adjacent Lutheran school came along a few years later and now has about 90 students from preschool through eighth grade.

“A lot of our students go from here to Lutheran high schools in several different states,” Rigby said. “There’s not a Lutheran high school here in Utah. My parents thought about establishing one but decided to stick with what they had.”

Becka Decker and her niece, Megan Schuurman, were also among those wearing costumes and handing out treats from the back of their car.

“I’ve been a member of the church 10 years, and this is one of the most rewarding things we do,” Decker said. “It is such a joy and so much fun to see the little kids dressed up in costumes. This is a great, safe alternative to door-to-door trick or treating.”

Unified Police Taylorsville Precinct Chief Tracy Wyant agrees.

“This is a great annual event that draws lots of people from many different faiths and cultures,” Wyant said. “They really do a nice job here. It’s a big crowd, but everyone is safe.”

Unified Police had three vehicles at Trunk or Treat night, while the Unified Fire Authority also provided a ladder truck.

About midway through the candy gauntlet, several fire pits awaited parents and kids, along with the graham crackers, marshmallows and chocolate necessary to concoct smores.

As they returned to the candy trail, the last stop of the night came before a spooky masked man, in front of a candy bucket with a sign reading “Mayor Johnson’s Halloween Treats.”

“This is such a fun night, because it’s all about the kids,” Johnson said. “The church does a great job with this every year. I’ve been coming ever since I was elected mayor. Wouldn’t miss it.”

Most kids at the eighth or 10th annual Taylorsville Trunk or Treat event didn’t seem to notice they were taking treats from the mayor. But they did all clearly see, that was the last stop on the candy trail — until next October. ✦



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Taylorsville resident Hazel Pope, 2, wins \$1,000 Utah Educational Savings Plan scholarship

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

Her mom, Aubrae, swears her daughter Hazel can already read “a little.” Question is, how well does the 2-year-old know her numbers? For instance, does she know three zeroes in front of a one are meaningless, but three zeroes behind it represent a good start on a college savings plan?

Little Hazel Pope is one of four statewide winners this year in the Utah Educational Savings Plan’s annual “Book Your Summer” reading program.

And because Hazel’s parents — Ken and Aubrae Pope — entered her into the scholarship drawing through the Taylorsville Branch of the Salt Lake County Library system, the branch itself also received a \$500 award to spend on materials.

“We visit the Taylorsville Library at least once a week,” Aubrae Pope said. “And as soon as we get there, Hazel runs straight to the children’s section and pulls out books for us to read.”

Of course, mom admits, she still does most of the heavy lifting.

“But Hazel does recognize a lot of letters, and she can count to 10,” Aubrae Pope said.

Hazel is the only winner who lives in the Salt Lake Valley, with the three others in Helper, Hyrum and Richfield, respectively. The libraries in those cities — along with the Taylorsville Library — have already received their \$500 awards. But the scholarship winners have a few years to wait.

“They (UESP) made up a nice, oversized check, which Hazel now has in her room,” Aubrae Pope said. “But Hazel doesn’t actually get any

money now. Instead, the UESP opened a \$1,000 scholarship account, which is great, because my husband and I already set aside college money for her.”

Aubrae and her husband, Ken, understand the valley of college degrees, having both graduated from BYU–Hawaii. Aubrae Pope earned her degree in elementary education, with minors in psychology and mathematics. Ken Pope’s degree is in Hawaiian studies, with an emphasis in language.

“It would be fun to have Hazel go out to Hawaii to attend our alma mater, but that’s a long way off,” Aubrae Pope said. “I was just thrilled to learn the UESP scholarship fund can be used at any accredited university she chooses.”

According to its website, “the Utah Educational Savings Plan is a nonprofit 529 college savings program, a tax-advantaged savings vehicle designed to encourage individuals to save for future higher education costs.” Several states have similar plans across the country, and the Utah plan is consistently recognized as one of the best. You can learn more about it at www.uesp.org.

The Utah State Library also sponsored the “Book Your Summer” reading contest, which was in only its second year, this summer.

“(The Book Your Summer program) is a great way for students to maintain and improve their reading skills over the summer,” said Utah State Librarian Donna Jones Morris.

Taylorsville Library Branch Manager Eleanor Nave added, “We’re thrilled (the Popes) have such a focus on books and were so proactive about



Aubrae Pope (right) shows her daughter Hazel, 2, the scholarship check she received after winning the “Book Your Summer” drawing. Hazel’s father, Ken, holds her up for a better view. (Sharon Deeds/Utah State Library)

signing up for the drawing.”

To be eligible for the scholarship drawing, Hazel had to complete a series of “Book Your Summer” activities.


“We really weren’t thinking about the scholarship drawing at all,” Aubrae Pope said. “We just signed up for the library program to have activities to do together. Besides reading books, Hazel did so many other things. One activity had her finger-painting for the first time ever.”

Every student who fulfills the requirements

of the summer program receives a free book.


“We figured that was a big enough prize,” Aubrae added. “When they emailed and called to say Hazel had also won the \$1,000 scholarship, we were shocked and thrilled.”

The Utah Educational Savings Plan and the Utah State Library plan to team up on the “Book Your Summer” program again next year. Library patrons anywhere across Utah can register their children for it next May. ✦



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2018 WINTER Tri-Series INDOOR
Whether you've wanted to try a Triathlon or are a seasoned triathlete wanting to get a jump start on the 2018 training season - this Tri-Series is for you. Held indoors at the climate controlled world class facilities of the Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center & Utah Olympic Oval, you'll race for a fixed time of 1 hour (with 2 transitions) in waves of 16 participants at a time. You'll have your own swim lane, your own Lemond bike, and plenty of indoor track to "Get YOUR TRI ON!". This event sold out the last 3 years! Registration begins November 23, 2017 at KOPFC.com.

TRI one or TRI them ALL!
\$29 each or all 3 for \$63 includes cool Tri Swag!

#1 January 20, 2018
#2 February 24, 2018
#3 March 24, 2018

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wibit

Largest-ever Taylorsville City Youth Council assisting families

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com



The Youth Council meets regularly at Taylorsville City Hall to plan community service activities. (Carl Fauver/City Journals)

Taylorsville City has assembled its largest Youth Council ever, and by mid-November, the group was hard at work assisting a local family with its Thanksgiving feast. Soon, they'll be brightening the same underprivileged family's Christmas as well.

"We normally have 20 Youth Council members," said city council coordinator and Youth Council Adviser Kristy Heineman. "But this year we had 21 applicants and didn't want to tell just one person they couldn't join. So we're bigger than ever, instead."

The two youngest of the group are a pair of Eisenhower Junior High ninth-graders, Madeline VanWagenen and Paige Smith.

"I'm a ninth-grade representative at school, and some council members came to one of our meetings at the start of the school year to tell us about it," VanWagenen said. "It sounded like a great opportunity to get to know the community and to help people, so I applied."

Another pair of council members attend Murray High School, although they live in Taylorsville (a youth council requirement). One of them, David Stump, is also one of only four boys on the council. The other, Bryn Gale, is the group's mayor and one of three youth ambassadors, a subset of the council that participates in even more activities, including new business ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

"This is my second year on the council and first as an ambassador (only high school seniors are eligible)," Gale said. "I really enjoy being active in the community. And I thought the service project would be very interesting."

Each of the three ambassadors is required to conceive and execute his or her own service project, involving the assistance of other council members. Bryn plans to capture part of Taylorsville's living history.

"For my project, I plan to record interviews with people at the Taylorsville Senior Center," Gale said. "Then, with the help of other council members, we'll edit the interviews together into a 30- or 60-minute video. I want to talk with them about their own families and about the history of the city and this area. Then we'll provide copies of the videos to all of the families and keep one available to the public at City Hall."

The other youth ambassadors who will tackle their own service projects are Angelique Canepari — who's also in her second year on the council — and Megan Squire, who is a third-year council member.

"I like all the service projects we do, and I'm looking forward to the ribbon-cutting events also," Angelique said.

Megan added, "Besides all the fun things we do, this is a great opportunity to change lives. I especially enjoy helping a family with Thanksgiving and Christmas."

One of the first activities youth council members undertake after they are selected in the fall is their Thanksgiving and Christmas program.

"Our Thanksgiving meal budget is \$125," Heineman said. "Then when the council Christmas shops for the same family, they spend \$75 to \$100 on each member, including the parents."

The needy family selected to receive holiday assistance is chosen from nominees submitted by or to the council.

The Taylorsville Youth Council is an officially recognized service group, set forth in city statute. It operates with an annual budget of \$8,000 to \$9,000.

"By the time we buy shirts for all the members and participate in other events, that budget doesn't cover everything," Heineman said. "Council members normally conduct a couple of fundraising events. And sometimes they have to donate some of their own money so we can get everything done."

Once the holidays are over, Taylorsville Youth Council members participate in a day at the state legislature, a leadership conference at Utah State University and other activities.

"Year after year, the kids tell me what they enjoy most is serving the community, learning how government operates and building friendships," Heineman said. "I love working with these kids because they are the cream of the crop."

Any Taylorsville teens who will be in ninth through 12th grade in the 2018-19 school year can apply to be a member of next year's group. To learn more about it, contact a current Youth Council member or Heineman at Taylorsville City Hall. ➔



Emergency

Emergency	911
Unified Police Department Dispatch	801-743-7000
<i>(Non-Emergencies)</i>	
Fire Department	801-743-7200
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control Shelter	801 -965 -5800
Animal Control After Hours Dispatch	801 -840 -4000
Building Inspection	801 -955 -2030
Chamber West <i>(Chamber of Commerce)</i>	801 -977 -8755
Gang Tip Line	385 -468 -9768
Garbage/Recycle/GreenWaste Pick-up <i>(Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling)</i>	385 -468 -6325
Granite School District	385 -646 -5000
Health Department	385 -468 -4100
Highway Conditions <i>(from cell phone)</i>	511
Park Reservations	385 -468 -7275
Public Works <i>(Salt Lake County)</i>	385 -468 -6101
Questar	801 -324 -5000
Rocky Mountain Power	888 -221 -7070
Salt Lake County Recycling/Landfill	801 -974 -6920
Taylorsville - Bennion Imp. District	801 -968 -9081
Taylorsville Food Pantry	801 -815 -0003
Taylorsville Senior Center	801 -293 -8340
Taylorsville Neighborhood Compliance	801 -955 -2013
Taylorsville Justice Court	801 -963 -0268
Taylorsville Library	801 -943 -4636
Taylorsville Recreation Center	385 -468 -1732
Swimming Pool <i>(Memorial Day to Labor Day)</i>	801 -967 -5006
Taylorsville -Bennion Heritage Center	801 -281 -0631
UDOT Region 2	801 -975 -4900
Utah Transit Authority (UTA)	801 -743 -3882

MAYOR’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Mayor
Larry Johnson

The Christmas Season is here – my favorite time of year. It offers an opportunity to gather family and friends to enjoy traditions that have passed from generation to generation. It is time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and be most appreciative and grateful.

I encourage everyone to slow down long enough to enjoy the moments of opportunity to be present with our family, friends, co-workers, and community. This season, let us all reach out a little further to those around us. Let us look for those who might need that helping hand.

I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It has been a great privilege to serve this community alongside dedicated city employees.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank all the residents of this great City of Taylorsville, a place I have called home for over 60 years, for the opportunity to serve you the people as mayor of this city.

We have made significant steps forward in our city, just look around! I would like to thank all the men and women who have helped in moving our city forward, administration and council.

We all saw the vision and the potential in our

city and communicated to investors and businesses that this is the place to be and many came.

Taylorsville is genuinely better than it was four years ago. I am excited and proud of our accomplishments. Let's all work together; this truly is an excellent place to raise a family and live.

Thank you,
–Mayor Johnson

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www.taylorsvilleut.gov





Chief Jay Ziolkowski

DECEMBER SAFETY MESSAGE

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

At this time of the year, it is important to remind everyone about the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 400 people die each year in the United States from CO poisoning.

Please consider the following:

- CO is considered an invisible killer because it cannot be seen or smelt.
- It can come from many sources, including fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, ranges, water heaters and room heaters; and engine-powered equipment such as portable generators. Do not burn charcoal in fireplaces or in barbeque grills inside a home, or in semi-enclosed areas can also result in lethal carbon monoxide levels.
- Sustained exposure to high levels of CO can quickly incapacitate and kill someone.
- Make sure to have working CO alarms in the home on every level and outside each separate sleeping area. CO alarms are designed to alarm before potentially life-threatening levels of carbon monoxide are reached.
- Almost all homes have at least one smoke alarm. However, carbon monoxide alarms are much less common.
 - At low levels, CO poisoning symptoms can include dizziness, headache or flu-like symptoms. At high levels, victims can have mental confusion, vomiting, and they can die. At extremely high levels, it is possible to lose consciousness suddenly without experiencing less severe symptoms. Without intervention, death is the result.
 - Proper installation, operation, and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances in the home is the most important factor in reducing the risk of CO poisoning.

Leisure Activities, Recreation, and Parks Committee (L.A.R.P)

BEST OF TAYLORSVILLE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS



Blaine and Sheryl Petersen
1101 West Hidden Cove Drive
Taylorsville, Utah 84123



Leo and Tina Lovato
3116 Uintah Ridge Court
Taylorsville, Utah 84129



Billy and Becky Edwards
2085 West Rebecca Ann Circle
Taylorsville, Utah 84129

COUNCIL CORNER

Elections bring change! The City Council will have two new members in January. Congratulations to Kristie Overson who was elected Mayor, she will be sworn in early in January, which will leave a vacancy. The Council will be appointing her replacement at a special Council Meeting in mid-January. Congratulations to Meredith Harker as well! She was elected to Council District 4. She will be taking over for outgoing Council Member Dama Barbour.

We'd like to offer our sincere thanks to Council Member Dama Barbour for her years of service to the City of Tay-

Elections Bring Change

lorsville! By the end of her term, she will have served on the City Council for 8 years. She has been an integral part of the growth and redevelopment that has come to the City.

We'd also like to thank Mayor Johnson for his 4 years of service as Mayor and for his 4 years of service on the City Council prior to election as Mayor. He has been an integral part to the growth and redevelopment over that last several years.

They have each served their constituents and the City well and deserve our thanks and appreciation. We wish them the best and hope to see them often at City Hall!



Council Chairman
Brad Christopherson – District #3
bchristopherson@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Member
Dama Barbour – District #4
dbarbour@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Member
Ernest Burgess – District #1
eburgess@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Member
Kristie Overson – District #2
koverson@taylorsvilleut.gov

Council Vice-Chair
Dan Armstrong – District #5
darmstrong@taylorsvilleut.gov

NEW BUSINESSES

Welcome to
Taylorsville!

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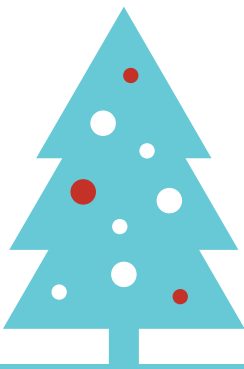
2582 West 4700 South
Nail Salon

Monte Vista MHC

4595 S. Monte Vista
Mobile Home Park (New Owner)

Ramos Transportation, LLC

5991 S. Redwood Road
Transportation



City of Taylorsville
Holiday Food Drive

The Taylorsville Food Pantry is in need
of assistance to help fill the shelves
for Christmas holiday meals.

MOST-NEEDED ITEMS:
**Canned Fruit, Cranberry Sauce, Raisins, Yams,
Pumpkin, Boxed Stuffing, Turkey, Ham**

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday 1PM - 3PM,
Wednesday 4PM - 6PM,
Saturday 10AM - 12PM (Noon)
*Donations may be dropped off during operating hours

Taylorsville Food Pantry
4775 South Plymouth View Drive
Taylorsville, Utah 84123
www.TaylorsvilleFoodPantry.org
Phone: (801) 815-0003

2-1-1 provides people with ways to get help, and give help. By simply dialing 2-1-1, callers can connect to health and human resources they need, as well as find meaningful volunteer opportunities.



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DIAL 2-1-1

- Emergency Food Pantries
- Utility Assistance
- Health and Dental Care
- Child Care/Youth Resources
- Government Services
- Tax Assistance/Legal Aid
- Behavioral/Substance Abuse

Want to Give Help?
DIAL 2-1-1

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- Civic/Religious Groups

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- Guardería para niños y programas para adolescentes
- Servicios gubernamentales
- Ayuda con preparación de impuestos y asuntos legales
- Terapia psicológica y terapia para abuso de drogas

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- Familias
- Empresa
- Grupos cívicos/religiosos

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LIVE UNITED

Taylorsville Bennion Heritage Remembrances

HEBER BENNION REMEMBRANCES

Article was compiled from the Bennion Family of Utah book.

Heber Bennion was born on the 28th of November, 1858, in the old English Fort, now known as the Taylorsville Cemetery, Salt Lake County, Utah, being the first born child of John and Mary Turpin Bennion. This fort had been erected and the families of the neighborhood gathered and living therein as a protection from the roving bands of Indians with which the present state of Utah was then infested.

The first two or three years of his infancy were spent within the walls of this fort, but with the arrival of more peaceful relations with the Indians, the family removed back to the homestead on the banks of the Jordan River, about midway between the fort and the present city of Murray.

Heber spent much of his time as a young boy in the calling to which his father had assigned him until the sudden death of his father in 1877. Heber was chosen as the shepherd of the family and in the fall of 1878, he continued in the care of the family flock and started out on his own account to handle the sheep, but with a personal interest in them. He changed the grazing territory first to Rush Valley, Tooele county, to Chalk Creek, Summit County, and the Wyoming desert for the winter.

In the fall of 1882 he was called on a mission to the Northern States. Returning home in the summer of 1884, he resumed his old vocation of shepherd but discontinued this activity for a time in order to take a short course of study at Brigham Young university in Provo, under the guidance of Dr. Karl G Maeser.

Upon the passing of his uncle, Bishop Samuel Bennion, he was ordained to the office of Bishop and placed in charge of his old home ward of Taylorsville, a position which he held for a period of seventeen years.

Heber Bennion was a man of courage, determination and fortitude, always a hard worker, always ready and willing to struggle and fight in support of his convictions.



Heber's 1903 graduating class of the Old Rock School House located at 1668 W. 4800 South in Taylorsville

Back row: Ada Cook, Ira Cannon, Lenore Bennion, Desla Bennion, Ethel Bennion, Heber Bennion.

Middle row: Eugene Paxton, Mary Elizabeth Cook, Heber Sanders (teacher), Alice Mackay, and N. Ray Pixton

Front row seated: Katie Pixton (Mitchell), and Zeretta Frame (Smith).

'Tis The Season

Cold and freezing weather is upon us and your plumbing may not like it. Burst pipes from freezing can cause some of the most expensive repairs in the home. So let's go over some of the basics to make sure you have them covered.



Insulate Exposed Piping

If you have any exposed water or drain piping in uninsulated spaces such as in a crawlspace, attic, outside walls, etc., make sure to insulate them. Ideally you should wrap them with electrical heating tape first, and then insulate them.

Wrap water heaters and hot water pipes in insulation to improve efficiency. This is especially important in locations where hot water components are exposed to cold temperatures.

Exterior Faucets

Also known as hose bibs. You may want to consider an insulated cover for the exterior faucet. And remember to disconnect your garden hoses from the outside faucets and drain the hose to prevent damage if stored outside.

Continuous Flow Notifications

If you received a notice in the message box on your bill it means the water meter has registered a continuous flow of water to your property for more than 15 consecutive days. This may indicate an unknown leak in your system that is increasing your usage. Possible locations of a leak include interior plumbing fixtures, lawn sprinklers systems, stop and waste valves, and your service lateral. Additional information can be found on our Web site www.tbid.org or by calling 801-968-9081.

Reminder: If you are shutting down a property for several months you should always shut off the water supply from inside the home. If a leak were to occur without occupancy, the damage could be catastrophic.



Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP)

HOLIDAY OUTDOOR DECOR CONTEST



Show off your community pride and holiday spirit by nominating yourself or a neighbor in the City of Taylorsville for the HOLIDAY OUTDOOR DECOR CONTEST!

Submit a picture or video via email to LARP@taylorsvilleut.gov

All entries must be received by Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 5PM.



There will be two award recipients selected by the Taylorsville LARP Committee!

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Holiday Collections

Refuse, Recycling, and Green Waste will not be picked up on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. As a result, normal collections during those weeks will be delayed one day. Taylorsville collections will occur on Friday, rather than Thursday during those two weeks.

Curbside Christmas Tree Collection



We will be collecting Christmas trees during the month of January. For collection, place your undecorated tree on your curb. The trees will be collected on your regular collection day. If we don't get your tree one week, we will be back on your next regularly scheduled collection day.

Please visit our website for additional information.

- We cannot accept trees with decorations, lights, tree stands or flocking.
- Do not place the tree in your garbage, recycling, or green waste can.
 - If the tree is over eight feet tall, please cut it in half.
- We cannot accept artificial trees with this curbside program

Recycling Reminder



As gifts and presents are exchanged this season, please remember that paper-based wrapping paper is recyclable, but Mylar wrapping and bows/ribbons are not recyclable.



604 South 6960 West, Midvale UT 84047 • wasatchfrontwaste.org
Office: 385-468-6325 • Fax: 385-468-6330 • info@wasatchfrontwaste.org

GREENHOUSE WINTER GARDENING

The Community Greenhouse is now open.
The winter gardening fee is \$45.00



For additional information please contact:
Toni Lenning at 801-414-4192

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS FOR TAYLORSVILLE RESIDENTS



Traveling, even short distances, during the winter months in Utah can be stressful. Snow and Ice can cause delays and be very dangerous. Salt Lake County Public Works Operations is committed to providing safe, well-maintained roadway systems for the benefit of the public.

Our snow teams are prepared 24 hours a day in the event of a storm. Major arterial streets are the first priority to make passable and provide access to schools, hospitals, fire stations, police and other emergency services. Depending on the size of the storm, teams may need to continually plow these roads, which may delay residential road clearing. After the snow event has ended snow teams will return to residential streets to push the snow back to the curb or edge of the road. This often causes additional snow in driveways. We make every effort to clear all roads within 48 hours after the storm ends. When the temperatures dropping below 17 degrees the salt used on the road is less effective. The melt rate slows and the snow & ice may take days to completely melt. Drivers need to exercise extreme caution.

It is important for residents to understand what they can do to ensure the roads and sidewalks are safe and passable. Sidewalks and mailboxes are the responsibility of the resident to keep clear. We recommend the sidewalk be cleared after the plows have serviced the area.

Snow team members have been instructed not to clear roads with cars parked on them. Residents may call their local code enforcement or police department to assist with the removal of the cars to enable the plows access to the area. When clearing your driveways and sidewalks, the snow should not be deposited in the road. Garbage cans should be set at the curb in the morning and removed promptly.

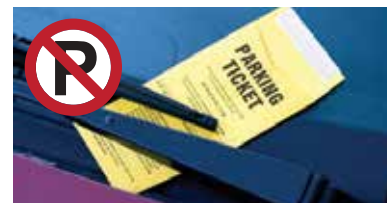
Snow removal team members are working 12-16 hour shifts and appreciate courteous and friendly drivers. Please use caution when you see a snow removal vehicle and remember the snow removal vehicle is harder to stop than a regular vehicle. For more information, please contact us at 385-468-6101.

Taylorsville's Municipal General Election was held on November 7, 2017, with official election results canvassed and certified on November 21, 2017. The final election results are, as follows: Kristie Steadman Overson was elected as Mayor; Meredith Harker was elected to serve as City Council Member in Council District 4; and Dan Armstrong was re-elected to serve as City Council Member in Council District 5. All are four-year terms. Congratulations to those elected! We thank all of the candidates for their hard work and involvement in the political process. We sincerely appreciate all those who run for elected office in Taylorsville for being so willing to serve our community!



City of Taylorsville Winter Parking Restrictions

- **No Overnight Winter Parking (November - April) for Snow Removal** 11.20.130
- **No Parking for more than 24 Consecutive Hours** 11.20.135
- **No Large Truck or Trailer Parking in Residential Area for more than three consecutive hours** 11.20.060
- **No Parking for Repairs, Maintenance, or to Display for Sale** 11.20.140



Cooking together brings benefits—possibly \$10K

By Jet Burnham | j.burnham@mycityjournals.com



If the public votes for this picture as its favorite, the Lemmon family could win \$10,000. (Sterling Lemmon)

The Lemmon family, which lives in Taylorsville, likes to cook together and does so a few times a week. Amy, age 11, and Brooklyn, age 6, help their dad, Sterling, cook dinner on the nights their mom works late. Other nights, they are in the kitchen with their mom, Carmen. When Carmen heard about the Uncle Ben's Beginners Cooking Contest, she thought it would be fun to enter.

"We already cook dinner together anyway, so why don't we just take a picture?" said Carmen. For the contest, families were asked to submit a

photo showing them cooking a recipe that included rice. The contest allowed one entry per day, so Carmen posted as often as she could, submitting six total entries by posting one picture each day for each of her daughters.

Out of entries from all over the country, the picture of Carmen and Brooklyn making their stuffed acorn squash recipe was chosen as one of 25 finalists. Voting was opened to the public on the Uncle Ben's website where people could vote for their favorite picture until the beginning of

November. Winners will be chosen by the end of the year with Uncle Ben judges making the final decision, based partly on popular vote.

The night they snapped the winning photo was the first time the Lemmon family had made the dish that caught the attention of contest judges. Using vegetables from their garden, they stuffed an acorn squash with venison, rice and vegetables and baked it until it was soft. Brooklyn, not a fan of squash, said she only liked the rice part.

The purpose of the Uncle Ben's Beginners Cooking Contest is to encourage families to cook together and to help kids learn the essential life skill of cooking, Uncle Ben's announced in a press release.

The Lemmons see many benefits to the time they spend in the kitchen together. Carmen said they have fun just being with each other.

"It gets them away from the tablet and the phones," she said.

Sterling said it's a good opportunity to catch up with each other.

"We can find out what's going on in each other's lives; I think that's the best part," he said.

Brooklyn said she likes cooking with her family because it goes faster when more people are helping. Her sister Amy does a lot of the measuring and cooking. Brooklyn especially likes to help with cutting and peeling vegetables.

"She likes to peel vegetables, but she's a perfectionist about it," said Carmen. "So she'll peel until there's hardly any vegetable left. You've al-

ready lost half of it by the time she's done." Carmen keeps extra vegetables available for this reason. She admits having the kids help in the kitchen takes more time.

"You just have to start making dinner a little bit earlier because it's going to take a little bit longer," said Carmen. For example, when Brooklyn helps prepare vegetables for salad, she is careful, and it takes longer than if Carmen did it herself. But Carmen and Sterling believe their girls are learning life skills in the kitchen.

"They can learn things from us that they wouldn't be learning otherwise," said Sterling. Carmen hopes her daughters are learning that even if it might not be the quickest option, cooking from scratch is going to be healthier and taste better than fast food.

"I think if they start cooking at a young age and like to help out, then like anything else, they're going to get in the habit of doing that and hopefully make it a lifelong habit," said Carmen.

Carmen said she learned to cook with her mom when she was a child, and now her girls often cook with her mom when she watches them after school.

The Lemmons hope they are chosen as one of the five winners of the contest. Winners will receive \$15,000 and a hometown celebration. The winners' schools will also be rewarded. If the Lemmons win, Uncle Ben's will award \$30,000 for a cafeteria makeover for their school, Vista Elementary. ✦

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\$25,000 provides bridge to college dream

By Jet Burnham | j.burnham@mycityjournals.com



Eighteen-year-old Jobany Quiterio hugs his mom, Cindy Quiterio, after he was surprised with a \$25,000 scholarship during class. (Jet Burnham/City Journals)

Jobany Quiterio, a senior at Taylorsville High School, received a \$25,000 scholarship from Sallie Mae.

“Sallie Mae’s mission is to help young people realize their potential—for many that involves going to college,” said Sallie Mae Spokesman Rick Castello. “The reason and the passion behind the Bridging the Dream Scholarship is to help students do just that—bridge that dream to college.”

Jobany’s story inspired the scholarship team when they read the nomination submitted by Jobany’s school counselor, Chad Farnes.

“As a seventh-grader, Jobany was traveling down the wrong path,” said Farnes in the application. “But he found the ability within himself to turn his life around. Today he is one of the most academically successful students and influential student leaders at Taylorsville High School. I can think of no one more deserving of this scholarship and the doors it will open for him.”

Farnes said he was impressed with Jobany from the moment he met him at the beginning of his sophomore year.

“Jobany came into Taylorsville on a giant roll—with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm,” said Farnes. Jobany joined the school’s Latinos in Action, took challenging classes and got involved in school activities.

Jobany said what turned his life and attitude around was searching out opportunities to try new things and to meet new people.

“The ability of Jobany to put himself into new situations that may be uncomfortable has been really impressive,” Farnes said. “I’ve just been impressed with him all around in regard to the amount of effort that he puts into his activities and his willingness to step outside his comfort zone and the things he’s been able to achieve as a result.”

What he’s been able to achieve is a 3.8 GPA and becoming THS’s student body president. He also tutors elementary students and has become a role model for others.

Cindy Quiterio, his mother, said he is a very good example to the community and to his

siblings. She said he has always been a help and support to her. Jobany said his mother taught him how to set goals, taking small, reasonable steps to achieve great things.

“Little by little I will get there,” he said. He also believes in not letting bumps along the way slow him down. Jobany’s brother passed away several years ago, and he struggled during his early teen years falling in with the wrong crowd. He said he has overcome a lot of barriers that could have kept him from his dream of going to college.

“I try to overcome them with going to school and meeting new people,” he said. “People I’ve met have inspired me to do better.”

Farnes said Jobany is always moving forward, taking his goals to the next step. Whether it is academically or socially, Farnes said Jobany is constantly reaching outside his comfort zone.

“One thing I am impressed with Jobany is his willingness to take on a challenge,” said Farnes.

Cindy Quiterio said she is grateful for the support the school counselor and teachers have given her son. She said she has always known that her son would do great things in school.

Jobany said going to college has always been his goal, from the moment he heard about what college was and realized what it would mean for him.

The Sallie Mae Scholarship team announced Jobany as a scholarship winner in front of his LIA class.

“I already had a plan to go to college for sure,” he said. “But now I’m for sure, for sure, going!”

Jobany plans to pursue a business degree at the University of Utah.

Nominations for the Bridging the Dream are submitted by high school counselors and community leaders across the U.S. This is the second year for the scholarship that helps students who excel inside and outside the classroom but who need financial help to get a college education. Sallie Mae employees fundraised to help provide five \$25,000 scholarships to teens around the country. ➔

Cadets play the game of strength and brain

By Jet Burnham | jburnham@mycityjournals.com



Taylorville High School's JROTC orienteering team placed well in competition this season. (Jason Garn/Taylorville HS)

Cadets in Taylorville High School's JROTC unit spent the month of October competing in various Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competitions. Each competition tested specialized teams on a set of specific skills. Taylorville's Relay, Score, Orienteering and Raider teams exhibited their proficiency in military skills such as map-reading, knot-tying, physical fitness, tactical skills, teamwork, mental agility and strategic planning.

Relay Teams, which comprised of eight to 10 students, competed in orienteering challenges. They worked together to find five locations, and they called points using a map and compass. Two at a time, they navigated their way to one point, where they received a stamp and then returned to the rest of the team. Once back, the next pair made its way to the next point. Teams had a total of two hours to reach all five points in the challenge.

Taylorville's teams ranked the fastest in the challenge, earning two of their teams first and second place in one event. The location of the event, which took place in Ogden, was unfamiliar terrain to the cadets, which forced them rely on their orienteering skills.

Lt. Capt. Eric Flores, a member of THS's relay team, said twice a week in JROTC classes, team members practice skills necessary for the orienting competitions, including map-reading and compass skills as well as endurance for the physical aspects of the challenge. He said running the course was the hardest part.

"We had to be able to have good endurance because we were running up and down steep hiking trails the whole time we were competing," he said. "The points were spread fairly far apart, so it was a huge test of endurance."

Another challenge at the competition was to test the skills of high school Score Teams. For this challenge, two team members were given one hour to find their way to several points. They would earn a varying amount of points depending on difficulty of the locations they made it to.

"For example, Point A could be worth five points, but Point C

would be worth 10 points," said Jason Garn, a student leader in the JROTC. "Each team of two had to strategize how to get as many points as it could in that one-hour block." Taylorville Score Teams performed well, placing first and fifth in that competition.

Raider Teams competed at a scrimmage held at Northridge High School and a Finals Event, the JROTC Wildcat Challenge, at Weber State University.

THS sent two Raider Teams of nine cadets each to the event. Raider Team events consist of various tests to challenge physically as well as mentally.

Junior Johnathan Avila, a captain in THS's JROTC, said while orienteering requires a lot of running and cardio exertion, Raiders use a lot of upper-body strength and mental skill.

Participants from 10 high school JROTC squads exhibited strength and endurance by running a 5k while carrying an extra 20 pounds. In other events, they sprinted through barricades and obstacle courses to test their tactical movement skills.

Their mental skills were tested with games of observation and memorization.

Squads used teamwork and knot-tying skills as they raced to build a rope bridge to get their team across it and back again before taking the bridge down.

"It's all timed, so we've got to do it as fast as we can," said Avila.

Taylorville's JROTC classes focus on team work and using everyone's skills to earn their wins.

"I learned a lot about working as a team," said Flores. "It really showed me how well we blend as a team."

For the second year in a row, the Orienteering Team took first place overall in the competition that took place in Ogden on Sept. 23. Ben Lomond High School took second place, and Utah Military Academy took third. Two of Taylorville's relay teams placed first and second in the relay event. ✦

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Warriors basketball teams on paths to success

By Greg James | gregj@mycityjournals.com



The Taylorsville girls basketball team has prepared for this season all summer. (Greg James/City Journals)

The high school basketball season is upon us. Taylorsville girls and boys teams have been selected, and the excitement of the teams’ future has captured the interest of the Warrior student body.

“We are a 6A High School varsity basketball program, so we compete against the very best athletes in the state of Utah,” girls head coach Jodi Lee said. “At this level, we are looking for the most skilled players that our school has to offer.”

The girls team qualified for the state tournament last season. It finished in third place in Region 3 with a 14-8 overall record. The team won eight of its first 10 games and seven of its region

contests.

The Lady Warriors have not missed the state tournament in the last 15 years; it’s a streak that goes back to March of 2002 when they lost in the 5A state championship to Alta.

Their opening game is scheduled for Nov. 22 at Granger High School. Their first Home game is Tuesday, Dec. 5 against Hillcrest.

Senior Morgan Toluono and junior Finau Tonga return to the team as last year’s leading scorers. Tonga stands 6-foot-2 and is an intimidating factor on the Warriors interior defense. Toluono’s outside shooting and slashing style of play helps balance

out the team’s offensive prowess.

Toluono recently signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Utah State University Eastern in Price. Her sister, Kaitlin, is a current player on the Eagles roster.

Lee expects colleges to have an interest in Tonga. She lists her height and defensive abilities as top qualities coaches are looking for.

The girls schedule is highlighted by an appearance in the Corner Canyon Holiday Tournament Dec. 14-16. They are scheduled to play Kearns, Corner Canyon and American Fork. Wins could elevate the team’s confidence heading into its region games.

Second-year boys head coach Bernie Graziano has a team with a small amount of experience. It graduated the nucleus of the team last spring. Graziano’s vast experience will help him guide a young team. He has coached at Granger, Cottonwood, Fremont, Skyline and Hunter.

“These kids are a lot of fun to coach,” he said. “I think they are committed to trying to achieve our goals. This is all about the kids.”

With the departure of the top six scorers from last year’s team, senior Tristen Madden is the only returner that scored double figures last season.

The Warriors boys team won two region contests last season, both over Cottonwood. They are hoping to make a return to the state tournament. Their last appearance was in 2015 when they lost to Viewmont in the first round 70-44.

The boys are scheduled to host Murray Friday, Dec. 1 in their first home game. They will also play Granger Friday, Dec. 8.

The Utah High School Activities Association reorganized its regions this fall. Taylorsville has been placed in Region 3 with Copper Hills, Herri-man, Riverton and West Jordan. ➔


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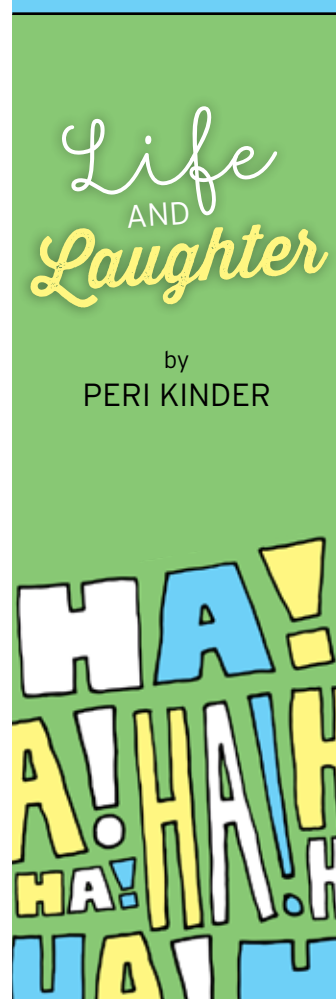
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Every year on November 30, while my girls slept, I'd spend the evening putting up Christmas decorations. I'd place every Santa just so and every angel just right. My daughters would wake up to a magical Christmas wonderland with twinkling lights, cinnamon-scented pinecones and beautifully wrapped packages.

That was my dream. Reality was much different.

Oh, the house was decorated, and the girls were excited, but within five minutes the entire holiday-scape was destroyed.

My daughters would walk into the idyllic wonderland I'd created, squeal with glee and run to their favorite Christmas decoration. One daughter immediately turned on the display that had Disney characters barking your favorite carols. If you haven't heard "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" sung in "Woofs" by Pluto for 25 days in a row, you don't know the real meaning of Christmas.

Another daughter ran to the Nativity scene where she helped Mother Mary run off with Frosty the Snowman, leaving Baby Jesus in the care of a 6-foot polar bear wearing a holiday scarf.

Yet another daughter took the ornamental French horn off the wall and marched through the house trumpeting Jingle Bells. Not to be outdone, her little sister used the tree skirt as a cloak and pretended to be the Queen of Christmas,

which caused several fistfights in front of the holy manger.

When the girls went off to school each day, I'd put all the decorations back in their traditionally ordained locations. I found Ken and Barbie naked in a Christmas stocking. I discovered one of the Wise Men snuggled with an angel behind an advent calendar. I glued the shepherds' crooks back on because the girls would have them fight ninja-style and kept breaking them off.

I found the singing Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer shoved into a pile of laundry. Oh, wait. I'd put that there. Because it never shut up.

The girls would come home from school and spend the rest of the evening rearranging the decorations while I radiated anger.

"Leave the damn tree alone!" I'd repeat 40 times a day.

"But someone moved my ornament from its special place." (Insert the sound of Christmas decorations falling off the tree.)

When I found the Christmas pillow I had painstakingly cross-stitched had been used to wipe up a Kool-Aid spill, I finally lost it. I was exhausted from trying to redecorate the house every day to keep everything looking perfect.

I screeched, in a very unholiday voice, "Put the Baby Jesus back in the manger

before I tell Santa to burn all your presents!"

Everyone froze. The daughter who had wrapped Baby Jesus in layers of toilet paper to keep him warm looked at me, eyes brimming with tears. "I just wanted to hold him," she said, as her lip quivered.

That's when it hit me. I was the Grinch. Why the hell was I ruining Christmas? Why was I trying to keep everything perfect? To my daughters, it was already perfect. They loved the decorations and wanted to play with them for the short time they were displayed.

I took a few deep breaths. I apologized. I even agreed to sit through a Christmas play where the Wise Men kidnapped Jesus and held him for ransom, but a stuffed Santa Claus karate-kicked the Wise Men to rescue the holy babe who



was given back to Mother Mary. (She had returned from her illicit rendezvous with Frosty in time to change the baby's diaper and put him back in the manger.)

My house was messy and emotional, but delightful and creative, too. This was my Christmas wonderland. ✦

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